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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

March 14, 1984

Dear Bill:

I am using this eyes only letter to give you my candid view on an issue which has festered along for three years. It has become an irritant to you and a frustration to all concerned--the PFIAB, and how to deal with it constructively. Obviously, no one doing a tough job, as you are, enjoys having someone looking over his shoulder. But I know you realize, perhaps better than I since you have been an energetic PFIAB member yourself, the value of outside advice and independent review. I think that the time has come to reach a modus vivendi with the PFIAB. I would like to suggest that one area in which we can make a start relates to their recommendations on improving our intelligence [redacted]. (TS)

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As you know, the PFIAB has submitted a significant number of specific recommendations for improving our capability [redacted].

[redacted] In my view the PFIAB has done a good job of reviewing our intelligence capabilities [redacted] - perhaps the most solid work they have done. While recognizing the positive steps you have taken, they have generally found our capabilities could stand to be expanded and updated. Furthermore, and most significantly, the importance which they attach [redacted] accords directly with the President's very serious concern [redacted] and its potential both as a threat and an opportunity. The President accepted the Board's original recommendations about a year ago and requested their implementation. (TS)

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I have recently talked to Anne and Leo, and they tell me that the Board is concerned at the lack of response and slow pace of implementation. They point out that the Board's recommendations are based on information provided by the community itself. They believe they had fully coordinated their 1982 report with you before it was sent to the President and consequently were surprised when the community took exception to the some of the recommendations contained in that report. (C)

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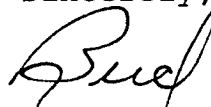
In December 1983 they reported to the President on their latest findings which included a status report on implementation of his previous directives [redacted] As a result, the President has asked that I prepare an NSDD incorporating their recommendations. I would like you to review it before I send it on. While I do not think this one should be a problem knowing that [redacted] is high on your priority list as well, it is very specific as to improvements that must be undertaken. (TS)

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Bill, at this time I do not think anyone wants a hostile PFIAB. They have done some good work and can continue to help us in many ways. I am ready to work with you to achieve a positive outcome and keep peace in the family, but I think we need to do this one with some care. Of course, I would be happy to discuss this with you. (C)

Sincerely,



Robert C. McFarlane

Enclosures (2)

- 1.
- 2.

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The Honorable William J. Casey
The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505